
Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 17:39:38 GMT
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Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> I am trying to put a "times" symbol (like the letter x, but not exactly,
> LaTeX $\times$) into an iTools annotation. I found it in the Helvetica
> font table at position 327 (octal), but I don't know how to add it to
> the iTools annotation.
>
> David's description on http://www.dfanning.com/ographics_tips/greek.html
> doesn't seem to help because since I am not creating the text object
> programmatically I can't use the string() function. Or can I somehow?
>
> Thanks for your help,
> Benjamin

Does this work:

```
IDL> window
IDL> x="327B
IDL> xyouts, 0.5,0.5,string(x),/norm,charsize=6
```

?

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 17:45:32 GMT
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Benjamin Hornberger writes:

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> LaTeX $\times$) into an iTools annotation. I found it in the Helvetica
> font table at position 327 (octal), but I don't know how to add it to
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>
> David's description on http://www.dfanning.com/ographics_tips/greek.html
> doesn't seem to help because since I am not creating the text object
> programmatically I can't use the string() function. Or can I somehow?

Well, I didn't know about that article. Neat. :-)

Here is what I just tried, which seemed to work.
I started an ISurface plot like this:

```
IDL> iSurface, Loaddata(2), XTitle='This is a title'
```

Then, I selected the X axis object and brought up its property sheet. I found the Title field in this property sheet and changed the title to this:

This is a title !9e!x and this is more title

When I hit the carriage return, the epsilon symbol was in the title!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 19:00:34 GMT

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Paul van Delst wrote:

> Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

>> Hi all,

>>

>> I am trying to put a "times" symbol (like the letter x, but not
>> exactly, LaTeX $\times$) into an iTools annotation. I found it in the
>> Helvetica font table at position 327 (octal), but I don't know how to
>> add it to the iTools annotation.

>>

>> David's description on

>> http://www.dfanning.com/ographics_tips/greek.html doesn't seem to help

>> because since I am not creating the text object programmatically I

>> can't use the string() function. Or can I somehow?

>>

>> Thanks for your help,

>> Benjamin

>

> Does this work:

>

> IDL> window

> IDL> x="327B

> IDL> xyouts, 0.5,0.5,string(x),/norm,charsize=6

>
>
> ?

Yes, but this is direct graphics. Also it uses the string() function, which I know how to use one the command line / programmatically, but I don't know how to use it in the graphical interface of iTools. If I just type string(), the string "string()" is added in my annotation ...

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 19:05:10 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> Benjamin Hornberger writes:
>
>> I am trying to put a "times" symbol (like the letter x, but not exactly,
>> LaTeX $\times$) into an iTools annotation. I found it in the Helvetica
>> font table at position 327 (octal), but I don't know how to add it to
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>> David's description on http://www.dfanning.com/ographics_tips/greek.html
>> doesn't seem to help because since I am not creating the text object
>> programmatically I can't use the string() function. Or can I somehow?
>
> Well, I didn't know about that article. Neat. :-)
>
> Here is what I just tried, which seemed to work.
> I started an ISurface plot like this:
>
> IDL> iSurface, Loaddata(2), XTitle='This is a title'
>
> Then, I selected the X axis object and brought up its
> property sheet. I found the Title field in this property
> sheet and changed the title to this:
>
> This is a title !9e!x and this is more title
>
> When I hit the carriage return, the epsilon symbol was
> in the title!
>

Yes, I've used that before. However, in that case the special character is part of the symbol font and corresponds to the letter "e" in the normal font (Helvetica). In my case, the special character is in the Helvetica font already, so I shouldn't even have to change fonts, but I just don't know how to produce that character (since the keyboard

doesn't have a key for it) ...

What would probably work is to find the identifier of that annotation and modify it programmatically (from the command line) using the `string()` function. But it would be nice if there was an easy thing I could type into the property sheet.

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 19:11:19 GMT
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Benjamin Hornberger writes:

- > Yes, but this is direct graphics. Also it uses the `string()` function,
- > which I know how to use one the command line / programmatically, but I
- > don't know how to use it in the graphical interface of iTools. If I just
- > type `string()`, the string "string()" is added in my annotation ...

You need to know what the "string" value of your octal number is. In the case of the epsilon:

```
IDL> print, string("145B)
e
```

So, that is why I can insert `!9e!x` into the title string and get it to show up as an epsilon on the display.

I presume you could do this programmatically, although I don't have a clue how, by fishing out your axis or font object (whatever you are trying to change) and getting the text, manipulating that (you *could* use your `STRING()` function now), and putting it back. I just showed you how to do it with the property sheets.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 19:15:12 GMT

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Benjamin Hornberger writes:

> Yes, I've used that before. However, in that case the special character
> is part of the symbol font and corresponds to the letter "e" in the
> normal font (Helvetica). In my case, the special character is in the
> Helvetica font already, so I shouldn't even have to change fonts, but I
> just don't know how to produce that character (since the keyboard
> doesn't have a key for it) ...
>
> What would probably work is to find the identifier of that annotation
> and modify it programmatically (from the command line) using the
> string() function. But it would be nice if there was an easy thing I
> could type into the property sheet.

Sorry, this came in after I responded to you.

Well, "nice" and "easy" and "iTools" are three words you
don't often see in the same sentence! ;-)

I would think there is only the hard way here. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation

Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 21:32:10 GMT

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Well, I just did the following at the IDL command line:

```
print, string(byte("327"))
```

This printed out the little times character in the output log.

Then, I created my iTools annotation, and double-clicked to bring up
the property sheet. Then I just copied and pasted that character into
the text field. My final string ended up looking like:

```
123×10!u5
```

with the nice times sign, plus some exponential notation for bonus points.

Does this help?

-Chris
ITTVIS

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 22:21:53 GMT
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Chris Torrence wrote:

```
> Well, I just did the following at the IDL command line:  
>   print, string(byte("327"))  
>  
> This printed out the little times character in the output log.  
>  
> Then, I created my iTools annotation, and double-clicked to bring up  
> the property sheet. Then I just copied and pasted that character into  
> the text field. My final string ended up looking like:  
>   123iċ½10!u5  
>  
> with the nice times sign, plus some exponential notation for bonus  
> points.  
>  
> Does this help?
```

Indeed it does. Thanks so much!

Benjamin

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 01:16:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

```
> Chris Torrence wrote:  
>> Well, I just did the following at the IDL command line:  
>>   print, string(byte("327"))  
>>  
>> This printed out the little times character in the output log.  
>>  
>> Then, I created my iTools annotation, and double-clicked to bring up  
>> the property sheet. Then I just copied and pasted that character into
```

>> the text field. My final string ended up looking like:
>> 123i½10!u5
>>
>> with the nice times sign, plus some exponential notation for bonus
>> points.
>>
>> Does this help?
>
> Indeed it does. Thanks so much!
>
> Benjamin

Well, yes, I have the character in my iTool now. But I also have a "micro" symbol in there (using "!mm" in the annotation). Now if I export the plot to EPS, I have either the "times" but not the micro in there (when setting isolatin1 = true), or vice versa (isolatin1 = false).

I guess I'm giving up and fixing my labels in Illustrator. That always works (while blowing up the file size by a factor of 50).

Cheers,
Benjamin

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 17:22:16 GMT
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How about pasting in the micro symbol?

123×10!u5!n μ

Then it seems to work with isolatin1=true. The only problem is that it doesn't use the symbol font, so it looks a bit different.

I was able to see the micro character by doing the following:
print,string(bindgen(128)+128b)

-Chris

Subject: Re: special characters in iTools annotation
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 21:06:44 GMT
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Chris Torrence wrote:
> How about pasting in the micro symbol?

```
>  
> 123ï¿½10!u5!n ï¿½  
>  
> Then it seems to work with isolatin1=true. The only problem is that it  
> doesn't use the symbol font, so it looks a bit different.  
>  
> I was able to see the micro character by doing the following:  
> print,string(bindgen(128)+128b)  
>  
> -Chris
```

Yes, that works. In fact, now that I look at the font table again (Help index -> TrueType fonts -> samples -- thanks to David for pointing us there on http://www.dfanning.com/ographics_tips/greek.html) I see the micro symbol in the Helvetica font at position 265 (octal). I had looked for that yesterday but somehow missed it.

Since it is part of the Helvetica font, it looks even better than the character from the symbol font.

Thanks a lot,
Benjamin
